

Review of Basic Vocabulary

Terms (continued)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Narrator: The speaker who tells the story. If the narrator is also a character who participates in the story, it is important not to confuse the narrator with the author—who may, in fact, hold a very different attitude toward the story.

Point of view: The perspective from which a story is told.

Point of view is said to be **omniscient** if the narrator is outside the story and presents the thoughts of all the characters involved.

Point of view is called **limited** when the story is told from the viewpoint of one character who can see only a part of the whole story.

Protagonist: The central character of the story.

Resolution: The conclusion of the story. The resolution includes the story's action after the climax until the end of the story.

Rising Action: The part of the story, including exposition, in which the tension rises. Rising action builds to its highest point of tension at the story's climax.

Setting: The environment in which the story takes place.

Structure: The framework that determines how a story is put together—its “skeleton.” The structure of many stories includes four basic parts: exposition, complication, climax, and resolution.

Style: The characteristic ways that an individual author uses language—including word choice, length and complexity of sentences, patterns of sound, and use of imagery and symbols.

Suspense: Techniques used by the author to keep readers interested in the story and wondering what will happen next.

Symbol: An image, object, character, or action that stands for an idea (or ideas) beyond its literal meaning.

Theme: The story's main ideas—the “message” that the author intends to communicate by telling the story. Themes are often universal truths that are suggested by the specifics of the story.

Tone: The clues in a story that suggest the writer's (or narrator's) own attitude toward elements of his or her story.